

## SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

The following is a summary of federal regulations for migratory bird hunting. For complete federal hunting rules, refer to 50 CFR Part 20 or contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Law Enforcement, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503 (907) 786-3311.

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, net, fishhook, swivel gun, punt gun, or battery gun.
- From a sink box providing concealment below the water.
- By the use or aid of live decoys.
- Using recordings of migratory birdcalls or electrically amplified imitations of birdcalls (except where allowed for snow geese).
- By baiting or on areas reasonably known to be baited. Areas are considered baited for ten days after bait is gone.

### Possession and Tagging

Migratory birds must be tagged before being left at any place other than the hunter's residence or placed in the custody of another person for any purpose. Tags must state the number and kind of birds, date killed, and address and signature of the hunter.

### Transportation and Shipment

All migratory game birds being transported in the United States must have a head or one fully feathered wing attached until they reach the possessor's home or a preservation facility. Packages containing migratory game birds or parts that are shipped by post or common carrier must be marked on the outside with the name and address of both the sender and recipient, and the number of birds, by species, in the package.

### Import/Export

Check both specific export limits of other countries and import limits for the United States. One fully feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds being imported or exported until they reach one's home or a preservation facility. No person may import migratory birds belonging to another person.

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## 2003 - 2004 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations Summary



Lesser Canada Geese by Adam Grimm



**PRIBILOF/ALEUTIAN Unit 10 (except Unimak Is.)**Oct. 8-Jan. 22

Ducks <sup>1</sup>	7 per day, 21 in possession
Sea Ducks <sup>2</sup> Residents	10 per day, 20 in possession
Nonresidents	7 per day, 20 per season
Dark Geese <sup>5,6</sup>	4 per day, 8 in possession
White Geese	3 per day, 6 in possession
Brant	2 per day, 4 in possession
Tundra Swans	NO OPEN SEASON
Common Snipe	8 per day, 16 in possession
Sandhill Cranes	2 per day, 4 in possession

**SOUTHEAST Units 1-4**Sept. 1-Dec. 16

Ducks <sup>1</sup>	7 per day, 21 in possession
Sea Ducks <sup>2</sup> Residents	10 per day, 20 in possession
Nonresidents	7 per day, 20 per season
Dark Geese <sup>6</sup>	4 per day, 8 in possession
White Geese	3 per day, 6 in possession
Brant	2 per day, 4 in possession
Tundra Swans	NO OPEN SEASON
Common Snipe	8 per day, 16 in possession
Sandhill Cranes	2 per day, 4 in possession

**GULF COAST Units 5-7, 9, 10 (Unimak Is. only), 14-16**Sept. 1-Dec. 16

Ducks <sup>1</sup>	8 per day, 24 in possession
Sea Ducks <sup>2</sup> Residents	10 per day, 20 in possession
Nonresidents	8 per day, 20 per season

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S****NORTH Units 11-13, 17-26**Sept. 1-Dec. 16

Ducks <sup>1</sup>	10 per day, 30 in possession
Sea Ducks <sup>2</sup> Residents	10 per day, 20 in possession
Nonresidents	10 per day, 20 per season
Dark Geese <sup>6</sup>	4 per day, 8 in possession
White Geese	3 per day, 6 in possession
Brant	2 per day, 4 in possession
Tundra Swans <sup>8</sup>	Units 17, 18, 22, 23 only
Common Snipe	8 per day, 16 in possession
Sandhill Cranes <sup>9</sup>	3 per day, 6 in possession

**KODIAK Unit 8**Oct. 8-Jan. 22

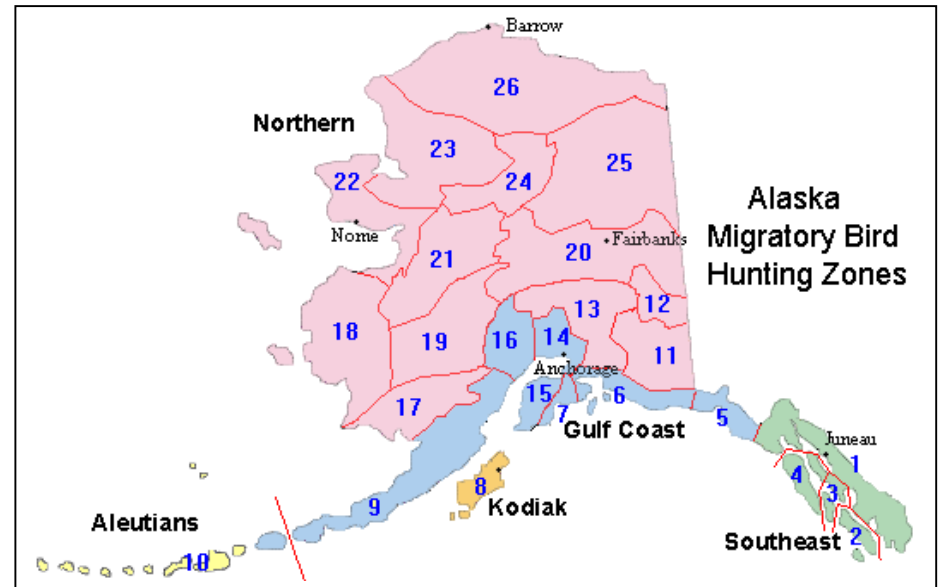
Ducks <sup>1</sup>	7 per day, 21 in possession
Sea Ducks <sup>2</sup> Residents	10 per day, 20 in possession
Nonresidents	7 per day, 20 per season
Dark Geese <sup>5,6</sup>	4 per day, 8 in possession
White Geese	3 per day, 6 in possession
Brant	2 per day, 4 in possession
Tundra Swans	NO OPEN SEASON
Common Snipe	8 per day, 16 in possession
Sandhill Cranes	2 per day, 4 in possession

Dark Geese <sup>3,4,6,7</sup>	4 per day, 8 in possession
White Geese	3 per day, 6 in possession
Brant	2 per day, 4 in possession
Tundra Swans	NO OPEN SEASON
Common Snipe	8 per day, 16 in possession
Sandhill Cranes	2 per day, 4 in possession

## Special Restrictions

- <sup>1</sup> **DUCKS (except sea ducks):** General duck limits may include no more than 1 canvasback daily, 3 in possession.
- <sup>2</sup> **SEA DUCKS:** Includes harlequin, long-tailed duck (oldsquaw), eiders, scoters and mergansers. Resident hunters may not take more than 6 daily, 12 in possession each of harlequin or long-tailed ducks. **Daily sea duck limits for nonresidents are equal to general duck limits for the zone (7, 8 or 10). Nonresidents may not take or possess more than 20 sea ducks per season, including no more than 4 each of harlequin, long-tailed duck, black scoter, surf scoter, white-winged scoter, common eider, or king eider per season.** Steller's and spectacled eiders are closed statewide.
- GEESE:** Dark geese include any combination of Canada and white-fronted geese. White geese include snow and Ross' geese.
- <sup>3</sup> Units 5 & 6, Canada goose season is Sept. 28-Dec. 16.
- <sup>4</sup> Unit 6 Middleton Island, Canada goose hunting is archery only, by registration permit. 10 permits available in Anchorage or Cordova.
- <sup>5</sup> Units 8 and 10 (except Unimak Island) closed for Canada geese.
- <sup>6</sup> Emperor goose season is closed statewide.
- <sup>7</sup> Unit 9(D) and Unimak Island portion of Unit 10 have dark goose limits of 6 daily, 12 in possession.
- <sup>8</sup> **TUNDRA SWANS:** Tundra swan seasons in Units 17, 18, 22 and 23 are Sept. 1 - Oct. 31. Hunting is by registration permit only, with a limit of 3 swans per permit.
- <sup>9</sup> **SANDHILL CRANES:** In Unit 17 bag limits for sandhill cranes are 2 daily, 4 in possession.

**FALCONRY:** A falconry permit is required to take, possess or hunt with an authorized species of raptor. Total combined limits for all migratory game birds taken by falconry are 3 per day, 6 in possession, but not exceeding more restrictive species limits listed in this section.



## WHAT'S NEW IN 2003 ?

### No Changes to Seasons and Limits This Year

Most goose and duck populations in Alaska and the Pacific Flyway are stable or increasing, so regulations are the same as last year. The delayed opening of Canada goose season in Units 5 and 6, and restrictions on Middleton Island remain as precautions to protect dusky Canada geese. Seasons remain closed for the diminished population of emperor goose, and for spectacled and Steller's eiders which are listed as threatened species in Alaska.

### Federal Migratory Bird Subsistence Regulations

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published the first set of federal regulations governing traditional spring and summer subsistence hunting of migratory birds in Alaska. The regulations allow permanent residents of designated harvest areas to hunt certain species of migratory birds during specified open seasons between March 11 and September 1. Currently, there are no state regulations that apply to spring and summer hunting.

**For more information**, contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Migratory Bird Comanagement Council: **(877) 229-2344**

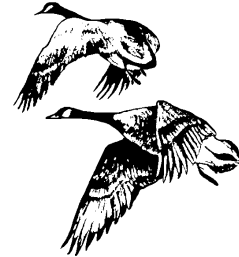
### Registration of Waterfowl Hunting Guides

All waterfowl hunting guides operating in Alaska are required to register with ADF&G before guiding clients. If you would like a list of registered waterfowl guides, view or download the current list at: <http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/wildlife/wildmain.htm> under Hunting Information or contact the Waterfowl Program at 267-2205 or 267-2206. ADF&G does not recommend or vouch for any specific guides or businesses.

Guides can obtain registration forms or renew registrations through local ADF&G offices or the Waterfowl Program in Anchorage.

## HIP ENROLLMENT FOR 2003

Most migratory bird hunters are required to enroll in the nationwide Harvest Information Program (HIP). Enrollment is easily completed when you buy your hunting license and state duck stamp.



1. Complete a HIP form at a license vendor (takes about 1 minute).  
or  
Enroll on the Internet when you buy a license and state duck stamp with a credit card (5-7 minutes).
2. You will be asked to provide:
  - Your name, address, date of birth
  - Approximate numbers of birds you harvested **last year**.
3. Leave your HIP form **with the license vendor**. **Do not take it with you**. Purchase your stamp, sign it in ink and put it with your hunting license (does not need to be attached).

**If you are exempt from the state duck stamp requirement you do not need to enroll in HIP.**

Hunters selected for the national harvest survey will receive a personal letter and hunting record form to keep track of birds they harvest. A more detailed questionnaire will be sent later to record hunting effort and harvest during **this season**. Responses from hunters are used only for purposes of estimating hunter activity and migratory bird harvest.

### For More Information

Call 1-907-267-2206 during business hours, or call toll-free in Alaska 1-800-478-7468 and leave a message with your address or telephone number. These telephone numbers are only for questions on HIP or harvest surveys, not for HIP enrollment.

## LICENSE AND TAG REQUIREMENTS

**Resident Hunters** All Alaska residents age 16 or older must possess a hunting license to hunt in Alaska and must carry it while hunting. Resident hunters 60 years old or older may obtain a free, permanent identification card issued by the Department. This card replaces the sport fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses. Disabled veterans qualified under AS 16.05.341 may receive a free hunting license. Residents with an annual family income below \$8,200 (before taxes) may buy a \$5.00 low income license.

**Nonresident and Alien Hunters** All nonresident and alien hunters, regardless of age, must possess the appropriate hunting license. Nonresidents may buy a small game license for \$20.00.

**Nonresident Military Personnel** Members of the military service on active duty who are permanently stationed in the state, and their dependents who are living in the state, and are not yet Alaska residents under AS 16.05.940(24), may buy special nonresident military small game licenses for \$25.00.

**State and Federal Duck Stamps** All waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older must have current federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp (\$15.00). An Alaska Waterfowl Conservation Stamp (\$5.00) is also required unless you:

- are an Alaska resident under the age of 16;
- are an Alaska resident 60 years old or older;
- are a disabled veteran eligible for free license; or
- qualify for a low income license.

State and Federal stamps must be signed in ink and must be carried at all times while hunting waterfowl. Stamps need not be attached to a hunting license. State and federal stamps are not required when hunting only snipe and sandhill cranes.

**Proof of HIP Enrollment** Migratory bird hunters required to enroll in HIP must carry proof of enrollment while hunting—the serial number on the back of state duck stamps is the HIP number.

## ON-LINE LICENSING & REGULATIONS

You can purchase licenses and stamps on-line, check current regulations and download regulations from our websites.

**On-line Licenses:** <http://www.admin.adfg.state.ak.us/license>

**Regulations:**  
<http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/wildlife/geninfo/regs/regshome.htm>

### License Fees at Work

The Alaska Waterfowl Conservation Stamp program was authorized by the 1984 Alaska State Legislature to manage and enhance Alaska's waterfowl and their habitats and to provide public appreciation and benefits of waterfowl as national and international resources. Since 1985, the Alaska duck stamp program has raised over \$3 million.

Hunting license and state duck stamp fees are contributed to the state's Fish and Game Fund, reserved for the management of Alaska's fish and wildlife. Royalties from the sale of duck stamp art prints, posters, and other products are General Fund revenues allocated to the department by the legislature for the Waterfowl Conservation and Enhancement Program. Your duck stamp license fees and other stamp revenues provide all of the funding for the state's waterfowl management program and may not be used for other purposes.

### Learn About Duck Stamps on the Web

**Federal Duck Stamps:** <http://duckstamps.fws.gov>

**Alaska Duck Stamp Series:**  
<http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/wildlife/duck/stamp/stamp.htm>

Artist Adam Grimm designed the 2003 Alaska duck stamp showing lesser Canada geese. This stamp is the 19<sup>th</sup> in the Alaska duck stamp series.

## ILLEGAL METHODS OF TAKING GAME

Game means any species of bird, reptile and mammal, including a feral domestic animal, found or introduced in the state, except domestic birds and mammals (AS 16.05.940(18)).

The following restrictions apply to the taking of waterfowl, snipe and cranes. Additional restrictions apply to the taking of other types of game. Refer to current Alaska State Hunting Regulations for a complete summary of illegal methods of taking game.

### You May NOT:

- Hunt with a rifle, pistol, or a shotgun larger than 10-gauge.
- Hunt with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells (magazines must be "plugged" to hold two shells).
- Shoot on, from, or across the drivable surface of any constructed road or highway.
- Use poison or a substance that temporarily incapacitates wildlife to kill any game species without written permission from the Board of Game (5 AAC 92.990(32)).
- Use a helicopter for hunting or for transporting hunters, hunting gear, game meat or trophies, or any equipment used to pursue or retrieve game.
- Take game from motorized vehicles on land, except under provisions for disabled persons in state and federal regulations.
- Take game from a motor driven boat if the motor is running or if the boat is still moving because of the motor. You **may** use the motor to **retrieve** a dead or injured bird.
- Drive, herd, molest or harass game with any motorized vehicle.
- Use a machine gun or set gun.
- Use a crossbow in any restricted weapons hunt that authorizes taking by bow and arrow.
- Use a pit, fire, artificial light, laser sight, electronically enhanced night vision scope, radio communication, cellular or satellite telephone, artificial salt lick, explosive, expanding gas arrow, bomb, smoke, or chemical (excluding scent lures).

## FIELD POSSESSION

No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field, or while returning from the field to his or her vehicle, camp, etc. It is illegal to possess live birds without a permit; wounded birds must be killed immediately.

Waterfowl may be plucked in the field but one fully feathered wing or the head must remain attached to allow species identification during transport.

## SALVAGE OF MEAT

You must salvage all the edible meat of wildfowl for human consumption. Edible meat of game birds means the meat of the breast.

## USE OF GAME

You may not buy, sell, or barter game meat.

## MARKED OR TAGGED GAME

Some animals are marked, tagged or collared for scientific studies. These animals are legal game. However, if you take a marked animal, you must notify either the Alaska Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### Reporting banded birds is easy!

One minute of your time can furnish valuable data on the origin, movements and ages of ducks and geese. You may keep the bands and you will receive a certificate showing the date and location each bird was originally banded. Please call:

**USGS Bird Banding Laboratory**  
**Toll-free 1-800-327-BAND**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game conducts all programs and activities free from discrimination based on sex, color, race, religion, national origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. For information on alternative formats available for this and other department publications, please contact the department ADA Coordinator at (voice) 907-465-4120, (TDD) 1-800-478-3648 or (fax) 907-586-6595. Any person who believes s/he has been discriminated against should write to: ADF&G, PO Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526; or O.E.O., U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

## RESTRICTED OR CLOSED AREAS

Some areas in Alaska have restrictions on hunting methods, use of motorized vehicles, and access to state special areas (Refuges and Critical Habitat Areas), implemented by regulation or annual General Permits issued by the department. The restrictions summarized below are those that most apply to waterfowl hunting.

**GMU 1: Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge** is closed to hunting, except for waterfowl, snipe and cranes. No person may use any off-road or all-terrain vehicle, motorcycle, or other motorized vehicle (except a boat) within the refuge. Hunters 15 years old or younger must be accompanied by an adult, or be certified from a hunter education course. Before hunting in the refuge, all hunters must register with the department and carry proof of registration in the field.

**Mendenhall Lake Closed Area** is closed to hunting within ¼ mile of Mendenhall Lake, the U.S. Forest Service Mendenhall Glacier Visitor's Center and the center's parking area.

**Auke Lake** is closed to the taking of waterfowl.

**GMU 3:** Taking of snow geese is prohibited in that portion of **Blind Slough** that is open to hunting.

**GMU 7: Portage Glacier Closed Area** is closed to the discharge of firearms with 150 yards of all developed facilities on Forest Service lands south of Portage Creek.

**GMU 14: Anchorage Management Area** consists of all Cook Inlet drainages south of the Elmendorf and Fort Richardson military reservations and north of and including Rainbow Creek. Waterfowl may be taken only by falconry, but not in the Ship Creek drainage west of Post Road.

**Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge** consists of all public land and water south and west of and adjacent to the toe of the bluff

from Point Woronzof southeasterly to Potter Creek. Hunting is closed in that portion between the Alaska Railroad and the Old Seward Highway (**Potter Marsh**). On the remainder of the refuge, hunting is permitted only for small game by archery, falconry, and shotgun. However, shotgun hunting is prohibited in that portion designated by signs between the radio tower at Kincaid Park motocross area and Furrow Creek. Shotgun hunting is allowed only from September 1 through March 31, and only by hunters who have completed a certified hunter education course and carry an annual registration permit issued by the department. Motorized vehicles are prohibited, except by permit.

**Eklutna Lake Management Area:** Drainages of Eklutna River and Lake upstream from the Glenn Highway, excluding those drainages flowing into the East Fork of Eklutna River upstream from the bridge above the lake and Thunderbird Creek, are open to hunting for small game by bow and arrow only from the day after Labor Day through April 30.

**Chugach State Park Management Area:** That portion of the park outside of the Eagle River, Anchorage, and Eklutna Management Areas is open to hunting under regulations governing Unit 14(C), except that small game hunting is prohibited in the Tokle Creek drainage (Arctic Valley Ski Area).

**Birchwood Management Area:** All lands bounded on the south and west by Eagle River and the Fort Richardson Military Reservation, on the east by the Old Glenn Highway, and on the north by Peters Creek, are open to hunting for small game, but only by shotgun or bow and arrow north and west of the Alaska Railroad.

**Finger Lake** west of Palmer is open to the hunting of waterfowl only by archery with flu-flu arrows or falconry.

**Susitna Flats State Game Refuge** in Units 14 and 16: Off-road use of vehicles weighing less than 1000 lbs. GVW is allowed on all lands November 9 - March 31, provided there is

at least a 12-inch snow cover and 12 inches of frozen ground. During April 1 – November 8, use of such vehicles is allowed only within 1/8 mile of mean high tide. You cannot use a motorboat May 15 - August 31 on the Theodore River upstream from private parcel USS 3956. Aircraft landing and take-off is prohibited in the designated waterfowl habitat zone along the coast from April 1 through May 15 (map available at ADF&G).

**Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge:** Off-road vehicles may not be used within 1/2 mile of the Glenn Highway. Off-road use of vehicles weighing less than 1,000 lbs GVW is allowed on the rest of the refuge only November 9-March 31, when the department has determined that there is adequate snow and frozen ground. Off-road vehicles also may be used August 15 - November 15 in a posted 100-yard wide corridor extending from Cottonwood Creek on the western edge of the refuge along the north bank of Palmer Slough and Knik Arm to a sign at the end of the trail. Motorized watercraft are allowed year round on the Knik River, Matanuska River, and Knik Arm waters. On Wasilla Creek (Rabbit Slough), motorized watercraft may be used year round except that, during openings of weekend-only sport fisheries, watercraft capable of producing more than 42 lbs of thrust or 3 hp are prohibited. On all other refuge waters, you may use an outboard motor of 20 hp or less August 16 - March 31. Aircraft landing and take-off is prohibited except from November 10 - March 31 when the department has determined that there is adequate snow and frozen ground.

**Goose Bay State Game Refuge:** Off-road vehicles weighing less than 1,000 lbs. GVW can be used on all refuge lands November 9 - March 31, provided there is at least a 12-inch snow cover and 12 inches of frozen ground, and August 31 - November 8 on established trails located within the electrical transmission line right-of-way.

If you intend to hunt on private land, always ask permission of the owner and respect your privilege.

**GMU 15: Moose River Closed Area,** on and within 1/4 mile of the Moose River between the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge boundary and Sterling Highway, is closed to the taking of waterfowl.

**Skilak Loop Management Area** is open to small game hunting October 1 - March 1 by bow and arrow only.

**GMU 16: Susitna Flats State Game Refuge:** See restrictions under GMU 14 for details.

**Trading Bay State Game Refuge:** The use of off-road vehicles is prohibited in the refuge during April 1 - November 8. Off-road use of vehicles weighing less than 1,000 lbs. GVW is allowed November 9 - March 31, provided there is at least a 12-inch snow cover and sufficient frozen ground to prevent damage to vegetation.

**GMU 20: Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge** is open to hunting and trapping only by advance registration.

The **Healy-Lignite Management Area** is open to hunting by bow and arrow only.

**GMU 20, 24, 25, 26: The Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area** (lands within five miles of the right-of-way of the Dalton Highway) is closed to hunting, except that big game, small game, and fur animals may be taken by bow and arrow. Bowhunters must mark their bowhunter education certification card number in permanent ink on the fletching or shaft of each arrow in possession. No motorized vehicle, except aircraft, boats, and licensed highway vehicles on publicly maintained roads may be used to transport game or hunters within the Management Area. However, snow machines may be used to cross the corridor to access lands on the other side of the Management Area. Any hunter traveling on the Dalton Highway must stop at any check station operated by the department within the Management Area.



## **NONTOXIC SHOT: The Solution to Lead Poisoning**

Nontoxic shot is required for hunting waterfowl, sandhill cranes and snipe in Alaska. It is a violation to have shells loaded with lead shot in personal possession while hunting migratory birds. Shot sizes larger than T (0.20" diameter) are prohibited. Nontoxic shot also is required for muzzleloading shotguns. Current federally approved nontoxic shot types include: steel, bismuth-tin, tungsten-iron, tungsten polymer, tungsten matrix and TNI (HEVI-SHOT). Steel shot remains the most widely used nontoxic shot and the only type tested extensively to determine effectiveness in the field.

## **SHOOTING STEEL SHOT**

There are two major differences between steel and lead shot: steel is LIGHTER and ROUNDER than lead shot. These characteristics affect both the energy for penetrating birds down range and the size of the shot cloud (string) needed to intercept birds.

## **STEEL IS LIGHTER . . . USE A LARGER SHOT SIZE**

Steel pellets weigh about one-third less than lead pellets of the same size. To compensate for weight differences and improve downrange energy, use steel shot one or two sizes larger than the usual lead load. The chart "Proven Steel Shot Loads for Waterfowl" shows both typical effective ranges for various shot sizes and the desired patterning performance for taking different sizes of birds.

## **STEEL IS ROUNDER . . . USE A MORE OPEN CHOKE**

Soft lead shot is deformed during firing and passage through the barrel, forming longer and wider shot strings of irregular pellets. Steel shot manufacturing produces pellets that are more round than lead. The iron used in "steel" shot is about three times harder than lead pellets (but softer than gun barrels), so it does not deform when fired or when it strikes birds. Steel's more aerodynamic shape delivers better pattern density and penetration,

but shot strings are shorter and narrower than with lead loads. More open chokes such as Improved Cylinder and Modified will enlarge patterns and lengthen shot strings to provide more margin for error in the hunter's gun handling and trigger timing.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For information on shotshell performance and shotgun skills clinics, contact Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Hunter Information and Training at (907) 267-2531 or call:

**TOLL-FREE IN ALASKA (800) 478-SHOT**